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NYC'S 1 FREE DAILY NEWSPAPER

GINGER BAKER IS A MAD MAN, LITERALLY {page 16}

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NEW YORK
Wednesday, November 28, 2012

Sports. Yankees.

$11M

Yankees fan favorite Andy Pettitte will be returning for one more season in pinstripes, according to reports. He'll sign a contract worth $11 million.

▶ Andy Pettitte said during the playoffs he didn't feel he'd gotten over the pitching bug. {page 23}

ROB CARR/GETTY IMAGES

Cops search for MTA assault suspect amid attacks increase

Officials hunt for suspect who sprayed chemical agents on a 4 train conductor Union calls for harsher penalties for riders attacking workers {page 04}

wellbeing

Testicular tests: The balls are in your court

Gentlemen, educate yourself about this type of cancer {page 19}

technology

Don't believe the hyperviral Facebook fear

That whole 'privacy notice' thing is a sham {page 17}

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In the news

Teenager jumps to death from BK Bridge

BROOKLYN. A teenager reportedly jumped from the Brooklyn Bridge yesterday morning on the Brooklyn side, according to officials. The teen, 19, reportedly climbed up around 7:20 a.m. before jumping and landing near the River Cafe in Brooklyn's DUMBO. METRO/AB

In the news

Accused Baldwin stalker arrested again

NEW YORK. The woman accused of stalking actor Alec Baldwin was reportedly taken away in handcuffs again yesterday for violating an order of protection. Genevieve Sabourin allegedly tweeted to Baldwin's wife, Hilaria Baldwin, violating the order not to contact either Baldwin. Her attorney also dropped her, the Daily News reported. METRO/AB

Sand. Recovery

▶ Sand fills a pool in the Rockaways.

SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES

Weeks later, still clearing out sand and, now, snow

Snow and rain throughout the day yesterday hampered ongoing cleanup efforts in the Rockaways neighborhood of Queens. Here, workers attempted to clear sand out of a swimming pool that was filled during the storm. The storm caused an estimated $42 billion in damage to the state and $19 billion to the city alone, city officials said this week. Many people in the Rockaways suffered damage to their homes and did not have heat, hot water or power for weeks after the storm, which hit nearly one month ago. METRO/AB

In the news

Cops arrest alleged gangsters

NEW YORK. Federal officials arrested James Ferrara, Daniel Hanley and Peter Kanakis yesterday, charging them with extortion after finding that they threatened to collect debts with brass knuckles and a bat. "If you borrowed from these alleged gangsters, you risked losing life and limb," said Mary Galligan, FBI acting assistant director in charge. METRO/AB

Man convicted for raping teen

SOHO. DNA helped convict a man who raped a 19-year-old after following her into her SoHo apartment, the Manhattan district attorney said. Andres Suarez, 30, was convicted yesterday of sex assault, rape and burglary. Prosecutors said he followed the victim off of the subway and to her building in May 2008 before forcing her into a courtyard and raping her at knifepoint. METRO/CG

Report: Marijuana arrestees do not become violent criminals

New report shows that most people arrested for pot do not have subsequent felony convictions ◗ Calling to decriminalize small amounts

Most people arrested for marijuana in New York City are not the same people later behind bars for violent crimes, according to a new report.

The study, released Friday by Human Rights Watch, reported that 90 percent of people arrested for pot possession did not have subsequent felony convictions.

Advocates and city officials were at City Hall yesterday afternoon to push legislators to decriminalize small amounts of marijuana after the study showed most arrestees do not later commit violent crimes.

The study notes the common criticisms of these kinds of arrests: that they are racially biased or otherwise unconstitutional and that they are a costly, inefficient use of resources.

The Drug Policy Alliance has estimated that these arrests cost about $75 million per year.

"These arrests are a waste of the police's time and resources," Alliance spokesman Gabriel Sayegh said. "We need to re-orient those energies on issues that will yield an actual public safety benefit."

Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Police Commissioner Ray Kelly, as well as all five of the city's district attorneys, have said they support the bill.

Kelly instructed officers last year not to arrest people who took out small amounts of marijuana when asked, but 2011 still included 50,684 marijuana possession arrests, the second-highest number in city history, according to the Alliance.

DANIELLE TCHOLAKIAN
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Arrested for pot in a sock

Jiquay, 16, said he was walking with a friend on Flatbush Avenue in Brooklyn last month when cops stopped him to pat him down. They found a small bag of marijuana in his sock, he said, and arrested him. Jonathan, 22, said he was arrested in Brighton Beach in October. He said he was already in handcuffs when he confessed he had the marijuana on him, and the officers then removed it from his pocket and arrested him.

Quoted

"Hundreds of thousands of people in New York City, predominantly young men of color, are being wrongfully arrested, and there's not even a public safety benefit from it."
GABRIEL SAYEGH, DRUG POLICY ALLIANCE

Medical marijuana

Others are hoping to legalize marijuana for medical uses. Although the governor is pushing to decriminalize small amounts, he is not yet a proponent of medicinal pot, expressing earlier this year that the risks outweigh the benefits. But Colorado marijuana company Gaia Plant-Based Medicine has hired a group to lobby the state Legislature and Cuomo for medical marijuana legalization. Gaia is proposing the same model used in Colorado, where state-approved firms grow, distribute and sell the marijuana directly to patients, meant to make it easier for the state to track.

90.3 Percent had no subsequent felony convictions

6.2 Percent had one or more non-violent felony convictions

3.1 Percent had one violent conviction

.4 Percent had two or more violent convictions

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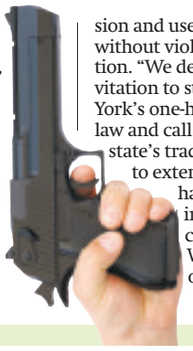
Gun law upheld in Manhattan court

NEW YORK. A New York law requiring "proper cause" for getting a license to carry a handgun in public doesn't violate the constitutional right to bear arms, a federal appeals court ruled yesterday. A three-judge panel in Manhattan upheld a lower court's dismissal of a lawsuit filed by five people who were denied full-carry concealed handgun permits in New York. They sued along with the Second Amendment Foundation, a Bellevue, Wash., group that supports gun rights. A federal court in White Plains, N.Y., threw out the case in September 2011. In its opinion, the appeals court said that the state has "a fair degree of latitude" to regulate the possession and use of guns in public without violating the Constitution. "We decline plaintiffs' invitation to strike down New York's one-hundred-year-old law and call into question the state's traditional authority to extensively regulate handgun possession in public," U.S. Circuit Judge Richard Wesley wrote in the opinion. **BLOOMBERG**



Subway conductor attacked amid 2012 rise in worker assaults

◗ Assaults up since last year ◗ Cops searching for chemical-spray suspect ◗ Man sprayed female conductor

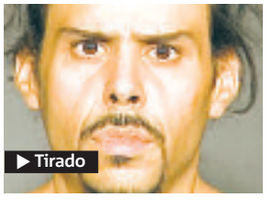
Police are hunting for a man wanted for spraying chemicals at an MTA conductor.

According to the NYPD, the incident happened Oct. 21 at 3:50 p.m.

Police said Enrique Tirado exited the 4 train at Brooklyn's Sterling Street subway station just before he sprayed a female MTA conductor with some kind of chemical agent.

According to the MTA, attacks against workers are up in 2012, at 117 so far this year, compared to 108 in 2011.

"This incident is another stark reminder that transit work is one of the most dangerous jobs in the city," Jim Gannon, Transit Workers Union 100 spokesman, said.


▶ Tirado

The TWU has long called for increased security in transit areas and harsher penalties for those who assault MTA workers. In May, Gov. Andrew Cuomo launched Transit Watch, a program that offered up to $2,000 to reward riders who help police track down people who assault transit workers.

117
There have been 117 attacks against MTA workers so far in 2012, compared to 108 in 2011.

"We have aggressively advocated for harsher penalties for people who assault transit workers while on duty," Gannon said. "But this year's increase in assaults makes it obvious more needs to be done to protect our members."

CASSANDRA GARRISON
cassandra.garrison@metro.us

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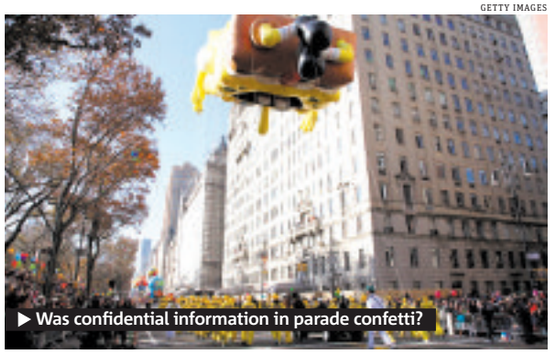
Police probe how security data became NYC parade confetti

GETTY IMAGES


▶ Was confidential information in parade confetti?

Police are investigating how shredded documents revealing confidential information, including details about Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney's motorcade, wound up as confetti on a Manhattan sidewalk during the annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

Bits of shredded paper from the Nassau County Police Department could still be found Monday afternoon in the cracks of the sidewalks along Central Park, according to Saul Finkelstein, the eyewitness who first alerted authorities to the problem.

Thousands of pieces of shredded paper were scattered along the parade route at 65th Street and Central Park West shortly after the parade began on Thursday morning, Finkelstein and his son, Ethan Finkelstein, 18, told Reuters.

Upon closer inspection, the confetti contained information from Nassau County police incident reports plus the names, social security numbers and bank account information of Nassau County police officers and employees.

Other scraps included information about Mitt Romney's motorcade to and from the Oct. 16 presidential debate at Hofstra University in Nassau County, which borders New York City to the east on Long Island.

"It was everywhere," Saul Finkelstein said, estimating the scraps piled three inches off the ground. The Finkelsteins scooped up and took home several handfuls, a small percentage of what was on the ground, Ethan Finkelstein said.

The Nassau County Police Department on Monday reiterated its statement from Saturday that it was very concerned and would investigate how the documents got to Manhattan and review how it disposes of sensitive documents.

Two internal affairs officers from the Nassau County Police Department visited Finkelstein's home Sunday to recover the shredded documents, Saul Finkelstein said. **REUTERS**

How did the confetti appear?

- Authorities could not say how shredded paper from a Long Island police force ended up along the parade route. The confetti Macy's uses in the parade is multicolored and commercially manufactured confetti, not shredded bits of printer paper, a Macy's spokesman said in an e-mail.
- Parade spectators often bring homemade confetti to the parade. Both spectators in the crowd and participants in the parade were throwing the shredded Nassau County documents at each other, Saul Finkelstein said. **REUTERS**

News in brief

GETTY IMAGES

▶ A New Jersey home

NJ residents want shore rebuilt with stricter codes

NEW JERSEY. The Jersey Shore, where hundreds of homes were swept away or damaged in superstorm Sandy, should be rebuilt, but with new, stricter building codes to protect against future storms, a poll of New Jersey voters said yesterday. If given the choice, voters said the state government in Trenton, rather than local governments, should pay for the recovery, according to the poll by the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute. "Rebuilding will take a few years, most New Jerseyans agree," said Quinnipiac's Maurice Carroll. **REUTERS**

A.G. to monitor charity Sandy fundraising

NEW YORK. New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman is requesting information from charities on fundraising related to Hurricane Sandy to ensure that money is spent on storm relief. The attorney general's office sent letters to 75 nonprofit groups requesting information on their fundraising and relief activities, Schneiderman said yesterday. The office's charities bureau will compile the information and report it online. "In light of the importance of the recovery efforts, and the enormous amount of money raised in such a short period of time, it is critical that donors know where their money is going, and that funds are spent responsibly," Schneiderman said. The charities include the American Red Cross, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York, City Harvest, Habitat for Humanity International and United Way of New York City. **BLOOMBERG**

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In the news

Judge orders tobacco companies to admit deception in public adverts

WASHINGTON. Major tobacco companies must take out advertisements admitting that they deliberately deceived the U.S. public about the danger and addictiveness of cigarettes, a federal judge ruled yesterday.

The ruling in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia attempts to finalize the wording of the advertisements that the judge first ordered in 2006 after finding the companies violated federal racketeering law.

Tobacco companies fought a public admission of deception, calling it a violation of their free speech rights. **REUTERS**

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Cigarettes

Arafat's corpse yields samples for poison test

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Tarpaulin hiding the mausoleum of the late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

Forensic experts took samples from Yasser Arafat's corpse in the West Bank yesterday, trying to determine if he was murdered with the hard-to-trace radioactive poison, polonium.

Palestinians witnessed the funeral of their hero and longtime leader eight years ago, but conspiracy theories surrounding his death have never been laid to rest.

Many are convinced their icon was the victim of assassination by Israeli agents, and may have been poisoned wittingly or unwittingly by a Palestinian. They may remain convinced of that, whatever the outcome of this autopsy.

Arafat's body was uncovered in the grave and samples removed without moving the corpse. The tomb was resealed in hours and wreaths placed by Palestinian leaders, including Prime Minister Salam Fayyad. **REUTERS**

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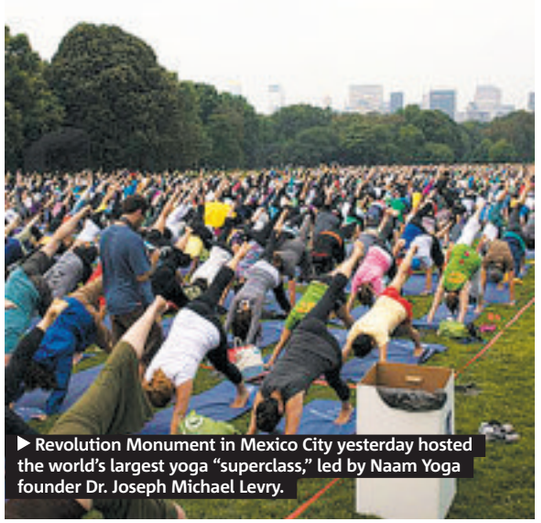

▶ Revolution Monument in Mexico City yesterday hosted the world's largest yoga "superclass," led by Naam Yoga founder Dr. Joseph Michael Levry.

GOODSWEAT

15,000 in world's largest yoga class

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▶ All the gifts purchased will be sent directly to Metro's office. It's the third year of Metro Magic, where we ask our readers to go online to buy toys for underprivileged children. **METRO**

Future governance of the Web to dominate UN global summit

An unprecedented debate over how the global Internet is governed is set to dominate a meeting of officials in Dubai next week, with many countries pushing to give a United Nations body broad regulatory powers even as the United States and others contend such a move could mean the end of the open Internet.

The 12-day conference of the International Telecommunications Union, a 147-year-old organization that's now an arm of the United Nations, largely pits revenue-seeking developing countries and authoritarian regimes that want more control over Internet content against U.S. policymakers and private Net companies that prefer the status quo.

Many of the proposals have drawn fury from free-speech and human-rights advocates and have prompted resolutions from the U.S. Congress and the European Parliament, calling for the current decentralized system of governance to remain in place.

While specifics of some of the most contentious proposals remain secret, leaked drafts show that Russia is seeking rules giving individual countries broad permission to shape the content and structure of the Internet within their borders, while a group of Arab countries is advocating universal identification of Internet users. **REUTERS**

Google pledge

▶ Google last week asked users to "pledge your support for the free and open Internet" on social media, raising the specter of a grassroots outpouring of the sort that blocked American copyright legislation and a global anti-piracy treaty earlier this year.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ In some ways, the U.N. involvement reflects a reversal that has already begun.

ITU likes the idea

Fundamentally, most of the 193 countries in the ITU seem eager to enshrine the idea that the U.N. agency, rather than today's hodgepodge of private companies and nonprofit groups, should govern the Internet. The ITU meeting, which aims to update a longstanding treaty on how telecom companies interact across borders, will also tackle other topics such as extending wireless coverage into rural areas.

If a majority of the ITU countries approve U.N. dominion over the Internet along with onerous rules, a backlash could lead to battles in Western countries over whether to ratify the treaty, with tech companies rallying ordinary Internet users against it and some telecom carriers supporting it.

In the news

Rice meeting with senators fails to quell doubts

WASHINGTON. U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Susan Rice will meet with lawmakers this week to discuss her controversial

remarks about the September attack in Benghazi, Libya, that have caused hurdles for her potential promotion to secretary of state.

The move, announced shortly after a top critic said he would be open to speaking to her, could fuel speculation that she is gunning for the nation's top diplomatic job.

Republicans have attacked Rice for appearing on TV talks shows shortly after the attack on the U.S. diplomatic mission in Benghazi. **METRO**

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Kim Jong-un makes the list; Cyber Monday a hit

From the People's Bureau of Gullibility

N. Korea called, it wants its sexy back

China's top newspaper went to town yesterday with a 55-page online picture spread of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un being named The Onion's "Sexiest Man Alive for 2012," appearing to fall for a spoof by the U.S. satirical website.

Seemingly clueless as to the real nature of The Onion's tongue-in-cheek award for Kim, the People's Daily splashed full-page photographs of the portly young leader riding horses, clapping his hands, waving and clasping children's cheeks on his tours around North Korea.

"With his devastatingly handsome, round face, his boyish charm and his strong, sturdy frame, this Pyongyang-bred heartthrob is every woman's dream come true," the English online edition of the People's Daily quoted The Onion as saying. The People's Daily is the mouthpiece of China's ruling Communist Party and is among the better regarded newspapers in the country. **REUTERS**

A true milestone

Kardashian No. 1 on Bing searches

Kim Kardashian topped the 2012 list of the most-searched person on Bing, the Web search engine said yesterday, with Canadian teen pop star Justin Bieber coming in second.

Kardashian, the reality television personality from "Keeping Up With The Kardashians," grabbed the No. 1 spot back from Bieber after she topped Bing's annual list in 2010 and Bieber came in first last year. **REUTERS**

Ms. Kardashian. has N. Korea got the Kim for you!

DON'T think of the kids

Elmo puppeteer faces new charges

The puppeteer formerly behind the "Sesame Street" character Elmo faces a new accusation of having sex with an underage boy, a week after a similar allegation prompted him to resign from the public television children's program. In a lawsuit filed Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Manhattan, a man identified only as John alleges Kevin Clash engaged in oral sex and other sex acts with him when John was 16 years old. The suit seeks at least $75,000 in damages. **REUTERS**

Ol' Saint Net

Cyber Monday was the best ever

Internet sales jumped 30.3 percent on Cyber Monday, making it the biggest online shopping day ever, according to IBM.

Monday was also a record day for sales of Amazon.com Inc.'s Kindle electronic devices, the online retailer said, without saying how many it sold.

Besides the 30.3 percent increase from Cyber Monday of 2011, total online sales were up more than 36 percent from this year's Black Friday, according to International Business Machines Corp, which analyzes transactions from 500 U.S. retailers. **REUTERS**

$30 Amazon cut the price of the Kindle Fire by $30 to $129 on the Monday, its most successful deal ever.

Going to battle

ACLU sues over women in combat

The American Civil Liberties Union sued yesterday on behalf of four U.S. servicewomen to challenge a longstanding policy barring women from thousands of ground combat positions, citing the changing nature of warfare and fairness for career soldiers. The civil rights group argued in a legal complaint filed in federal court in Northern California that a military policy to bar women from combat roles on the basis of gender was unconstitutional.

Their career opportunities also had been limited by the policy, the women said. **REUTERS**

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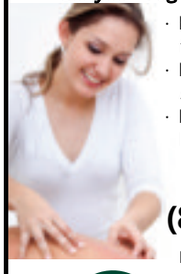

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This interactive workshop will be led by Jessie Gruman, a four-time cancer survivor and author of the book *Aftershock: What to Do When the Doctor Gives You—or Someone You Love—a Devastating Diagnosis*. She will draw upon the experiences of participants, as well as the results of interviews with hundreds of patients and caregivers. The aim of this lecture is to prepare its participants to appropriately respond to a troubling diagnosis of friends and loved ones with clarity, confidence and generosity.

Presenters:

Jessie Gruman, PhD
Author, President
Center for Advancing Health

Karen Langer, PhD
Clinical Psychologist
Manager, Psychosocial Services
NYU Clinical Cancer Center

Michelle Tropper, MPH
Administrative Director
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THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

Today in celebrity lawsuits

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer..

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my deviled eggs are the best

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yoga makes me fart.

@EvaLongoria
And the tree is unloaded and UP!

@SarahKSilverman
There should be an age limit on wearing those zig-zag Charlie Brown T-shirts

Eva Longoria

▶ Berry is having men trouble ...

Celebrities. If they aren't getting divorced, they're getting sued. Here's a breakdown of the latest legal woes of your favorite stars.

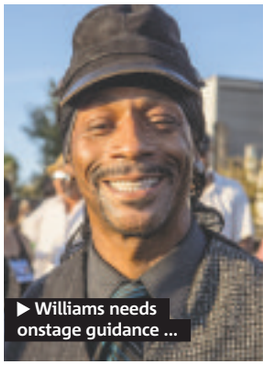
While **Halle Berry** is hoping to make her temporary restraining order against ex **Gabriel Aubry** permanent following his bloody Thanksgiving row with her fiance, **Olivier Martinez**, Aubry himself is reportedly seeking legal protection, according to TMZ. In his legal declaration following the incident, Aubry claims that Martinez threatened his life and used intimidating language the day before the fight, during a school play featuring **Nahla**, the daughter Berry and Aubry share. Aubry has been granted a restraining order of his own against Martinez.

The lawsuits just keep coming for **Kevin Clash**, the beleaguered ex-voice of **Elmo**. He's been slammed with a third ac-

▶ ... and so is Kevin Clash.

cusation of having sex with an underage boy a week after a similar allegation prompted him to resign from "Sesame Street." A man identified only as **John Doe** alleges Clash engaged in oral sex and other sex acts with him when he was 16 years old. The suit, which was filed Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Manhattan, seeks at least $75,000 in damages, per Reuters.

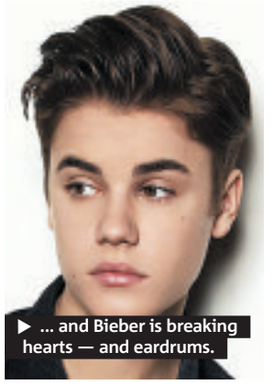
A **Katt Williams** fan isn't just brushing off a terrible performance by the comedian — he's suing the star on behalf of everyone who had to witness it. This week, **Brian Herline** of Modesto, Calif., filed a class action lawsuit against Williams and Live Nation on behalf of the audience members who attended a Williams show at Oakland's Oracle Arena earlier this month. The San Francisco Chronicle reports that Williams went bonkers 10 minutes into his set, taking off all of his clothes and then challenging people to fight (sounds watchable to me). The gracious



▶ Williams needs onstage guidance ...

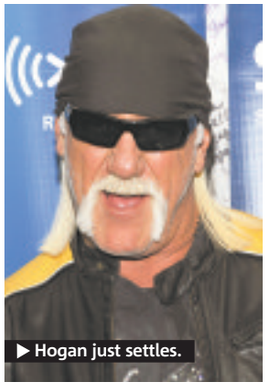
Herline is seeking class-action certification in an effort to get ticket money back for all audience members.

Speaking of offended audience members, it's been a bad week for **Justin Bieber**. First, he was booed by a bunch of foot-



▶ ... and Bieber is breaking hearts — and eardrums.

ball fans for his halftime performance at Canada's Grey Cup on Sunday, and now he has been hit with a $9.2 million lawsuit brought against him by **Stacey Wilson Betts**. Betts claims she lost her hearing "by a sound blast that exceeded safe decibel levels" at a Bieber concert two years ago thanks to all the teenage screaming. Bieber



▶ Hogan just settles.

and his lawyers asked for the case to be dismissed, stating that Betts has a "failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted," which is legalese for "girlfriend is crazy."

And, finally, we're going to save the most beautiful and touching for last: **Hulk Hogan** and **Bubba the Love Sponge** have settled out of court regarding Hulk's lawsuit against Bubba over a sex tape scandal. Hogan sued his former friend and Bubba's ex-wife **Heather Clem** for taping him in sexual acts with Heather without his knowledge and consent. The terms of the settlement are confidential.

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TV watch list

'The Hour'

DRAMA. Dominic West leads a cast of newscasters as Season 2 picks up with the threat of nuclear war gripping the journalists. **Season premiere, 9 p.m., BBC America**

'A Charlie Brown Christmas'

SPECIAL. Take a break from all that Christmas commercialism as Linus schools the Peanuts gang on the true meaning of the holiday and Charlie Brown's sad little tree gets decorated with a whole lot of love. **8 p.m., ABC**

'Christmas in Rockefeller Center'

SPECIAL. The world's most famous Christmas tree is lit with the help of musical guests Tony Bennett, Mariah Carey, CeeLo Green and more. **8 p.m., NBC**

AMBER RAY

To the beat of a very different drum

Jay Bulger on his new doc about Cream's Ginger Baker ◗ 'Beware of Mr. Baker' is an apt title, given Bulger's relationship with his subject

Jay Bulger deliberated about how much of a part he should play in "Beware of Mr. Baker." The writer and director's debut documentary focuses on the impulsive and explosive life of drummer Ginger Baker, who is best known as the thunderous beat behind Cream, the 1960s band that defined the term "supergroup." It might at first seem superfluous to include the personal story of the filmmaker, especially because Baker is such a one-of-a-kind character whose history is dense with so much unabashed sex, drugs, rock 'n' roll and violence. But some of those forces inevitably leaked into Bulger's own life while making the film.

"I was like, 'God, I'm there so much and you hear my voice, I should probably show who I am,'" says the filmmaker. "And then when he broke my nose with a cane, I thought that was such an indicative moment of who he is and how he deals with people."

From left, Jack Bruce, Ginger Baker and Eric Clapton might not have gotten along on a personal level, but their musical chemistry made them a force of nature. Jay Bulger will be at tonight's premiere of "Beware of Mr. Baker" at Film Forum (209 W. Houston St.) at 8:20.

RON HOWARD/REDFERNS/GETTY IMAGES

"I loved the challenge of doing a movie about somebody who is so potentially unlikable." BULGER

The assault begins and ends the doc, but between these personal bookends, Baker tells of a troubled childhood and how he escaped through an enchantment with rhythm and, soon after, heroin. Both are constants during his meteoric rise to fame and many falls from such dizzying heights.

Lounging in a leather chair in his South African home, Baker often berates Bulger.

"It's like boxing," says Bulger. "Sometimes you've got to take a couple punches before you can get inside."

And he does get inside. The drummer opens up about the bridges he has burned between family and friends. Then Bulger interviews those same people, including bandmates Eric Clapton, Jack Bruce and Steve Winwood. That Bulger would do this is why Baker hits him.

"I loved the challenge of doing a movie about somebody who is so potentially unlikable," says the filmmaker.

But what really gives "Beware" its driving beat is the vintage footage of its subject, wild-eyed and wild-haired, gangly limbs flailing all over his drum kit throughout the decades and basically looking like a person who is destined to die young.

"As much as you want to hate him, you've got to love him because he still keeps going," says Bulger, "and he never compromises."

How did Baker react when he saw the film?

"He was like, 'I loved the first half — the second half, not so much,'" laughs Bulger. "I was like, 'Oh yeah, you mean the half where your life goes to s— and you keep making mistakes, ruining opportunities and squandering fortunes?' ... If that's his response, where it could have been, 'I'm gonna f—ing kill you,' I think that's a success."

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Don't fall for fake privacy notice

The legalese you've been seeing in status updates on Facebook does nothing to protect against policies

A "privacy notice" that's been virally spreading on Facebook, supposedly protecting one's personal details and data from unauthorized copying, is fake.

The notice started spreading a few days after Facebook posted its new privacy guidelines, announcing it would let users comment on proposed changes to its governing documents, but not vote.

The text of the notice starts as follows: "In response to the new Facebook guidelines, I hereby declare that my copyright is attached to all of my personal details, illustrations, graphics, comics, paintings, photos and videos, etc."

It then goes on claiming that anyone can copy this text and paste it on their Facebook

wall, which supposedly forbids Facebook to "disclose, copy, distribute, disseminate or take any other action against [the user] on the basis of this profile and/or its contents."

Finally, the notice points out that "Facebook is now an open capital entity" and that all its members are "recommended to publish a notice like this."

The notice resembles a text from July which also spread virally on Facebook and, just like that notice, the new one is untrue as well.

The idea behind the "notice" is that Facebook's listing as a publicly traded company will negatively affect its users' privacy, which is not true. Facebook and its users are still bound to the same terms and conditions that are accepted by users when they sign up for the service, and posting a legal "talisman" of this kind on your profile does nothing to change that.

STAN SCHROEDER FOR Mashable
The Social Media Guide

Quoted

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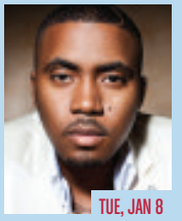
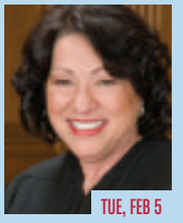


TUE, JAN 8

NAS
WITH ANTHONY DECURTIS

TUE, JAN 29

AL GORE



TUE, FEB 5

SONIA SOTOMAYOR
WITH THANE ROSENBAUM

SUN, FEB 10

BABY GOT BACH
WITH ORLI SHAHAM
FAMILY MUSIC AGES 3-6

MON, FEB 11

JESSE EISENBERG
WITH THANE ROSENBAUM

MON, FEB 11

JEREMY DENK
CHARLES IVES AND AMERICAN TRANSCENDENTALISM

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Shop like a pro

NYC stylist and personal shopper Natalie Decleve knows her way around clothing racks She shares her secrets for successful sprees Prepare for fewer returns and say goodbye to morning wardrobe meltdowns

DANIEL BERNAUER AND TWAH DOHERTY

What's worth the splurge?

"I think handbags and coats. In the winter you wear your coats over everything. If your outfit is amazing underneath, but you're wearing a crappy coat on top, who cares?"

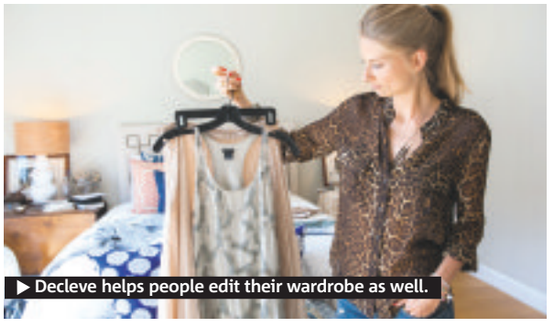
Hate shopping? Let Natalie Decleve come to your rescue. Find out about her services at www.nataliedecleve.com.

Whether she's hunting for the perfect cropped blazer for one of clients or scouting the latest and greatest for her fashion blog, Natalie Decleve is constantly shopping. Here, the stylist gives us her tips on building the perfect wardrobe.

Identify what's missing: "It's really important to take a look at what you have in your wardrobe and what you don't like and why. People say, 'I open my closet and I have nothing to wear.' Then they go shopping and buy more of the same stuff. The first step is to identify what's missing and what would make your life easier getting dressed in the morning."

Study style: "Look at inspiration photos on street style blogs. But don't just say, 'I love that girl's outfit.' Well, why do you love it? Do you like the way she put things together or do you love a specific item?"

Decide what's worth investing in: "When you're deciding where to put your dollars, it's important to think about how much wear you're going to get out of something. A concept I talk about [with clients] is cost-per-wear. You take the price of an item and divide it by the number of times you'll wear it. So if you have a $100 coat but you're going to wear it a 100 times, then your cost-per-wear is only $1 a day. Then you can evaluate what is really worth spending on."



Decleve helps people edit their wardrobe as well.

Shop for your body type: "Be aware of your strengths and weaknesses. If you have a tiny waist, why not show it off? If you have short legs, make them look longer by wearing high-waisted things. If you have broad shoulders, you can do a halter neck top to make them appear less wide. If you have a body part that you would like to draw less attention to, wearing dark colors and avoiding prints will detract the eye from that area."

When to pay full price: "Pay full-price when an item is exactly what you're looking for and it's something that's hard to find. So if you see an incredible coat, and you've been looking for a coat just like it, and you're not going to have time to comb discount sites, by all means get it because otherwise it will haunt your dreams."

Shopping sales: "Department stores have great discounts. Take advantage of their friends and family sale because that's when you can get in-season merchandise for less. The important thing with sales is to think, 'Would I buy this if it was not on sale?' Sample sales can be dangerous for that reason. Just really identify before you go in what it is you're looking for and what you're going to allow yourself to buy."

Buy that cocktail dress

"If you find a cocktail dress that you love and it's a perfect fit and a great price — even if you don't need it at that moment — it's a good idea to get it. It's worse when you have an event like a wedding and you can't find a dress. Then you're spending hours looking for one."

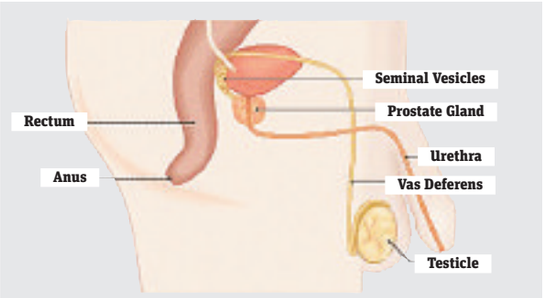
TINA CHADHA
tina.chadha@metro.us

REAL MEN TOUCH THEMSELVES

It's time to fondle yourself for peace of mind We speak to a medical expert about why it's important for men to get up close and personal with their testicles to avoid cancer Plus: Myths and truths about the disease

Balls, bollocks, nads, testicles — we spend enough time using them as a figure of fun, yet men are often reluctant to talk about them in any serious capacity — especially when there's a problem. Talking about it makes men feel emasculated, a pubic hair's width away from confessing to being a eunuch. Well, that mentality is slowly changing, thanks to education, advertising and of course, the annual Movember moustache grow-off, which raises awareness globally of both testicular and prostate cancer.

Dr. Sneh Khemka, medical director at health insurance plan Bupa International, is fondly known as Dr. Movember. Here, he gives us a rundown on men's cancers.



The position of the testicles and surrounding structures

RICHARD PECKETT
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON

Testicular cancer

Who's at risk?
It mostly affects men between 20-30. It's very rare for men over 50. Caucasian males are more likely to suffer, but other factors include family history, fertility issues and people who have had a complication related to mumps called orchitis.

The symptoms:
Often it's asymptomatic, but you may experience the following: a collection of fluid in your scrotum that causes swelling (a lump), anal discomfort (this can spread to the groin or lower abdomen) and a pulling sensation like you've been kicked.

The treatment:
The most common treatment is surgical removal of the affected testicle.

Can this cancer spread or return?
If the cancer has spread, you may require adjunctive radiotherapy or chemotherapy, depending on whether it has affected the lymph glands. However, when the affected testicle has been removed, it is unlikely to return in the other testicle.

Are there any options aside from surgery?
It's very rare to catch it early enough to avoid surgery. If the cancer is just being treated with chemotherapy or radiotherapy, then it does have a higher rate of return — which is why they usually just remove the testicle.

Common misconceptions

- **Myth: Testicular cancer affects older men.**
  Truth: It's one of the few cancers that affects younger men.
- **Myth: If you have one testicle, you can't have kids.**
  Truth: You're just as able as men with two balls.
- **Myth: Testicular cancer is incurable.**
  Truth: It's very treatable.
- **Myth: You get testicular cancer from cycling, like Lance Armstrong.**
  Truth: There's no evidence for this.

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Health notes

Work out for a cause

Sunday's Voices Against Brain Cancer's annual "Join the Voices! Run/Walk" is a five-mile race and scenic walk through Central Park. Sign up at **www.voicesagainstbraincancer.org**.

Dance the tango

The Health Club at the JCC (334 Amsterdam Ave.) is offering free Argentine tango lessons with ballroom dance champion Richard Anton Diaz Dec. 1, 8 and 15. No membership, experience or pre-registration is necessary. Call 646-505-5716 for more information.

Commit to a 5K

Start 2013 off on the right foot by participating in a 5K with hundreds of thousands of others across the U.S. on Jan. 1. Life Time Fitness' Commitment Day isn't a race, just a reason for you to get your butt in gear toward a healthy lifestyle. Sign up at **www.commitmentday.com**, and use the promo code YorkCD13 for $5 off.

▶ Get sudsy with new products at Crunch.

Free Zumba class!

Now you have no excuse if you've been wanting to get on the Zumba bandwagon: Metro readers can take Alyson Campbell's class this Monday at 7 p.m. for free. It's at Yorkshire Towers Fitness (305 E. 86th St.); bring this article to get checked in.

Bliss-fully clean

Next time you work up a sweat at Crunch, you may notice something new in the locker room: The gym is now featuring Bliss Spa products — like shampoo, conditioner and body butter, all in the spa's signature lemon+sage scent — so you can extend the good vibes after your workout ends.

MEREDITH ENGEL

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- My toes aren't straight – they are crooked, bent and hurt.
- I have painful calluses on the ball of my foot which keep building up.
- I have corns on my toes which get thicker no matter what shoe size I wear.
- The bottom of my heel hurts all day, but it's worse when I step out of bed in the morning.
- I have cramps in my legs which always happen when I walk the same distance.
- My ankles are swollen most of the time.
- My feet are always dry and scaly – sometimes they itch.
- My feet just hurt all over when I stand or walk a lot.
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Letters

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A few points can say nothing — or a lot

Many said the president was reelected by a "mere 2.8 percent." Check the elections results for Nixon-Kennedy, Nixon-Humphrey, Ford-Carter and of course both G.W. Bush's election results, one in which he did not even win the popular vote. Talk about close! In a generic sense, if someone suggested a president would go into an election with high unemployment, high debt and an ongoing war, one would think the challenger would win in a cakewalk. This makes the fact that the president won by 2.8 percent a landslide in modern terms, along with the large differential in electoral votes.

This happened because an overwhelming number of voters still believe the previous administration was responsible for our current economic chaos. More importantly, voters felt the president cared about their needs, not trickle-down policies that have failed. It was a mandate because the Republicans, given their beliefs and attitudes, have no where to look for additional votes.

DAVID DIBELLO, VIA E-MAIL

Don't wish you were a European

RE: "WHY BOTHER HAVING ANOTHER OPINION? ASSIMILATE!" (METRO, NOV. 27) Letter writer Larry Blong is one of tax-and-spend liberals who are oblivious to the fact that "goodies" cost taxpayers money. His plan for Republicans is to promise free stuff to the "nonrich." It is hard to believe that Mr. Blong would ever vote Republican, considering his belief that the GOP is stuck on the "redneck, Confederate way of thinking."

What do you think happens when nations spend more than they take in? Greece, much? Finally, compare the economic policies of our two largest states, Texas and California. California should be light years ahead of Texas, but mostly Democrats and some Republicans, obsessed with your "goodies"-for-votes plan have been running the government and fiscally destroying the state. Liberals want elections to be about which candidate is going to spend more on him rather than which one is going to spend responsibly on all Americans. God help us all these next four years.

KEVIN METZ, VIA E-MAIL

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It only takes a few bad apples ...

RE: "ANTI-ISLAM FILM MAKER TELLS NYT HE HAS NO REGRETS" (METRO, NOV. 27) I can't believe that the anti-Islamic fanatic who made that hateful video still believes that he didn't do anything wrong. I guess no one ever taught him that all religious beliefs are equally good, and all religions are equally good. As President Bush always emphasized, Islam is a religion of peace. The fanatical groups like Hamas and al Qaeda distort the true meaning of Islam.

JOHN FRANCIS FOX, VIA E-MAIL

Not quite a first time for everything

RE: "AMID STRIFE, A STORY OF BROTHERHOOD" (METRO, NOV. 27) Letter writer Arthur Horn suggested rescuing Ethiopian Jews is a first for Africa. If that is so, what would he call the Exodus story? Crossing the Red Sea takes one from Africa to Asia, no?

PHIL LINDSAY, VIA E-MAIL

Horoscope

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** To achieve the best results when negotiating with someone who is using intimidating methods, assume that the other party is merely bluffing.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** It's important to follow a carefully conceived game plan regarding an important matter. Try your best not to deviate from such a blueprint, because your on-the-spot decision-making might not be optimal.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Unfortunately, this might not be one of your more productive days — but not for a lack of industriousness on your part.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** You could end up being greatly disappointed if you fail to keep your hopes and expectations within reasonable bounds. Your optimism simply won't match your opportunities.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Don't expect to learn too much if you are intimidated by the subject matter. Get back in character and trust your smarts to figure it out.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Experiencing some opposition and/or frustration could prevent you from conducting business in your usual manner. Do your best to keep things moving forward.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** On issues where you and your mate hold divergent opinions, it might be difficult for either of you to alter the other's point of view. Applying pressure will only make matters worse.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** You're apt to be totally unyielding with anyone who takes you for granted. When someone truly needs your help, you'll be the first to lend a hand.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** If what you want turns out to be the opposite of what everybody else desires, it might be quite difficult for you to go along with them. Nonetheless, you need to take this one for the team.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** An important personal objective might not be in accord with the wishes and/or plans of your colleagues. Instead of being supportive, they could make things harder for you. Try to be diplomatic, but also be firm.

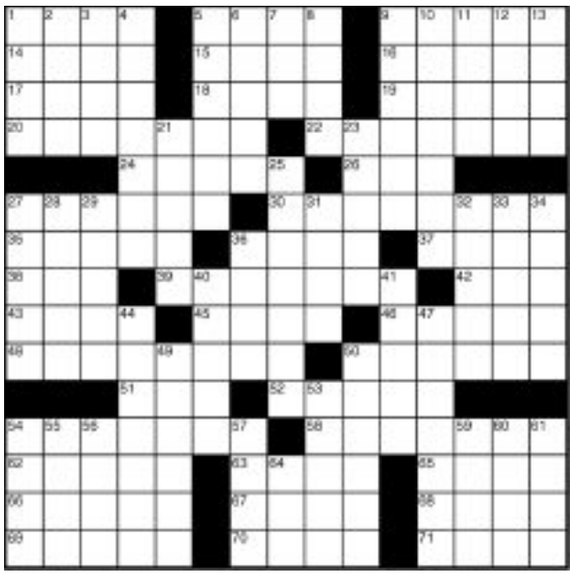
♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Many little annoyances, which you would normally overlook, could become overwhelming if you don't try to get a handle on them.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Someone who is trying to use intimidating methods to get you to comply with his or her wishes might act like he or she has the upper hand, but it's just a bluff. Don't be taken in.

BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Across
1 Joined the chorus
5 Corn storage
9 Godzilla's land
14 Wedding-cake part
15 Paddy crop
16 Pedro's pal
17 Comics pooch
18 Three oceans touch it
19 Change the clock
20 Easel partner
22 Lower in esteem
24 Ringlet
26 Miss Piggy's word
27 Ranch or meal
30 Sprained an ankle
35 Bedside noise
36 Transvaal trekker
37 German import
38 Gas-pump abbr.
39 Machines for hoisting
42 Turn down
43 Be a party to
45 Auction shout
46 Ms. LaBelle
48 Pause
50 Hair foam
51 Work out
52 Cozy corners
54 Shoulder ornament
58 Salty snack
62 Not express
63 Throw off heat
65 Forum site
66 Carried
67 Actress — Freeman
68 Chits
69 Winning
70 Flake off
71 Kind of prof.

Down
1 Grind to a halt
2 Verdi princess
3 Mr. Armstrong
4 Hand shaker
5 Ready to ship
6 Swells, as a river
7 Here, in Le Havre
8 Droplet
9 Lingo
10 New World
11 Leaning Tower site
12 Made cheddar better
13 Quick letter
21 Hike
23 Common abrasive
25 Puffed up
27 Vaughan or Bernhardt
28 Annapolis frosh
29 Comes unglued
31 Tall stalk
32 Seeks out
33 Proofreads
34 Civil War anthem
36 Pat dry
40 Meter reading
41 Ladder rung
44 Border town
47 Freud's homeland
49 Pealed
50 Not a god
53 Conjecture
54 Napoleon's island
55 Bear of little brain
56 Realty unit
57 Weather info
59 Monkey havens
60 Green-egg layers
61 Perchance
64 "Simpsons" bartender



4	2				7		6	9
7						2	4	
				8	2			
9	1			6		8		
		5				3		
		2		7			9	5
			6	9				
	9	1						6
8	4		7				2	3

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

	7			9	5		8	
		4	8					
					1			2
	8	9	5			1		
5	2	7		6		8	9	3
		6			9	2	5	
9			7					
					8	6		
	5		6	4			3	

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Solution to yesterday's crossword

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Pettitte ready to go one more time

Fan favorite will reportedly return for 2013 Signs contract worth $15 million Pitched well last season in limited time due to fractured ankle

MARK CUNNINGHAM/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Pettitte will be entering his 15th year with the Yankees, and 18th overall, in 2013.

A year ago, returning to the Yankees was not necessarily something on Andy Pettitte's mind as he closed out his first year of retirement. During spring training, his mind changed and he surprised the team by returning after serving as a guest instructor in spring training.

Pettitte did not wait nearly as long this time. Reports surfaced early yesterday morning saying Pettitte is expected to return on a one-year deal worth slightly over $11 million.

Pettitte never officially committed to coming back during last year, as he went 5-4 with a 2.87 ERA in 12 starts. During his return, the 40-year-old seemed rejuvenated and enjoyed himself even more despite missing nearly three months with a broken left fibula.

"I just think it's going to be a situation where you, again, just need to go home, see if I want to do this again," Pettitte said during the playoffs.

"I know one thing: I know the competition and the desire to compete is still there, and I don't feel like I kind of got that itch out from the 70 innings or so that I threw this year."

Coming off a year of inactivity, Pettitte made just $2.5 million last year in what amounted to an experiment. It was his lowest salary since earning $600,000 during the 1997 season.

The re-signing of Pettitte occurs a week after the Yankees retained 16-game winner Hiroki Kuroda on a one-year, $15 million contract.

By committing roughly $26 million of next year's payroll to veteran pitchers who showed they can still pitch, the Yankees avoid the pitfalls that often come with lengthy multiyear deals for starting pitchers.

Though Pettitte made just 12 starts last year, he had 69 strikeouts in 75 1/3 innings. That gave him a strikeout rate of 8.24 per nine innings, his highest since 2004 with Houston.

Re-signing Pettitte also sets the rotation barring any other trades. Pettitte will slide in behind CC Sabathia and Kuroda and the other two spots will be occupied by Phil Hughes and whoever wins the spring training battle between Ivan Nova and David Phelps.

LARRY FLEISHER
sports@metro.us

Rivera also close to deal

The news in Yankee land wasn't just about Pettitte yesterday, as closer Mariano Rivera also appears ready to return.

ESPN reported yesterday the team was close to signing the all-time saves leader as soon as the end of the week.

Rivera tore his ACL shagging fly balls in Kansas City on May 3, but said soon after he would return for 2013. The deal is expected to be for one year.

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▶ Wright

Mets make Wright offer

The Mets have reportedly made their first solid offer to free-agent-to-be David Wright.

Wright, who won't be a free agent until after the 2013 season, has been offered a deal for seven years. It is likely to be north of $100 million. Rays third baseman Evan Longoria received a six-year, $100 million deal Monday and Nationals third baseman Ryan Zimmerman signed for 11 years and $135 million in 2009. The Mets will probably be using both as a basis for Wright's extension.

Wright is owed $16 million next season, but has made it known he would like to sign an extension before the year. Otherwise, he might test free agency.

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3

In the news

Kidd still out

What was thought to be a brief absence for Knicks point guard Jason Kidd is now being extended.

Knicks head coach Mike Woodson said yesterday Kidd would not travel with the team for tonight's game in Milwaukee. He missed the game against his old team, the Nets, Monday night with back spasms. The team missed him too, as Raymond Felton went 3-for-19 in the loss.

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Metro's NFL power rankings | by Mike Greger

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1 TEXANS (10-1)
Houston might have been gift-wrapped a win by the referees (and Jim Schwartz's total imcompetence) on Thanksgiving, but they'll take it. For the second straight week, Matt Schaub proved he might be the most underrated quarterback in the league. Of course, it doesn't hurt having Andre Johnson — who set a record with 461 yards receiving in the past two weeks — available in crunch time.

2 FALCONS (10-1)
Is Atlanta the most unappreciated team in the NFL? They went into a hostile environment against a red-hot Tampa team and rallied for a comeback win.

3 49ERS (8-2-1)
Colin Kaepernick is high risk and very high reward, and Jim Harbaugh can take that risk because the kid has the most dominating defense in football.

4 RAVENS (9-2)
"Hey diddle diddle, Ray Rice up the middle." Fourth-and-29 keeps the Ravens on track and spawns the best slogan of the season.

5 BEARS (8-3)
Jay Cutler might rub some people the wrong way, but he's game on. Let's see how the Bears respond after suffering key injuries.

6 BRONCOS (8-3)
What's the ultimate compliment? Beating a team and then having its star running back ask for your autograph. That's the Peyton Manning effect.

7 GIANTS (7-4)
In the battle of Good Eli vs. Bad Eli, the Good Eli Manning showed Aaron Rodgers why two Super Bowl rings are better than one.

8 PATRIOTS (8-3)
As always, New England is peaking at the right time of the season. The Pats are 19-0 in the second half dating back to 2010.

9 PACKERS (7-4)
The Pack looked vulnerable without Clay Matthews anchoring the defense — and the offensive line did Aaron Rodgers no favors.

10 COLTS (7-4)
This team is no fluke as they continue to prove that tanking for a season isn't a bad philosophy when a franchise quarterback is waiting in the draft.

11 BENGALS (6-5)
Might have the toughest trenches (O-lines, D-lines) in the league. A three-game winning streak has Cincy buying back in.

12 BUCCANEERS (6-5)
Ronde Barber's discovered the Fountain of Youth, and we want an invite. They have a big test this week, on the road in Denver.

13 SEAHAWKS (6-5)
Seattle just can't win outside the Pacific Northwest (1-5 away record), and now Pete Carroll faces Adderall-Gate.

14 STEELERS (6-5)
Don't blame Charlie Batch. It's not his fault the Steelers don't have a more competent third-stringer. Still, they were in position to win last week even with eight turnovers.

15 VIKINGS (6-5)
Simply outclassed by Chicago. Up next, Green Bay, then a home date with Chicago. Could be out of playoff picture before Christmas.

16 REDSKINS (5-6)
Stop comparing RG3 to other mobile quarterbacks. He's better than Mike Vick and Cam Newton. The Skins are chasing an improbable playoff dream.

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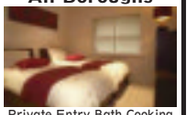
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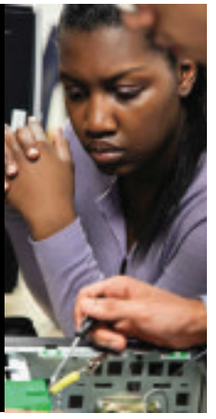

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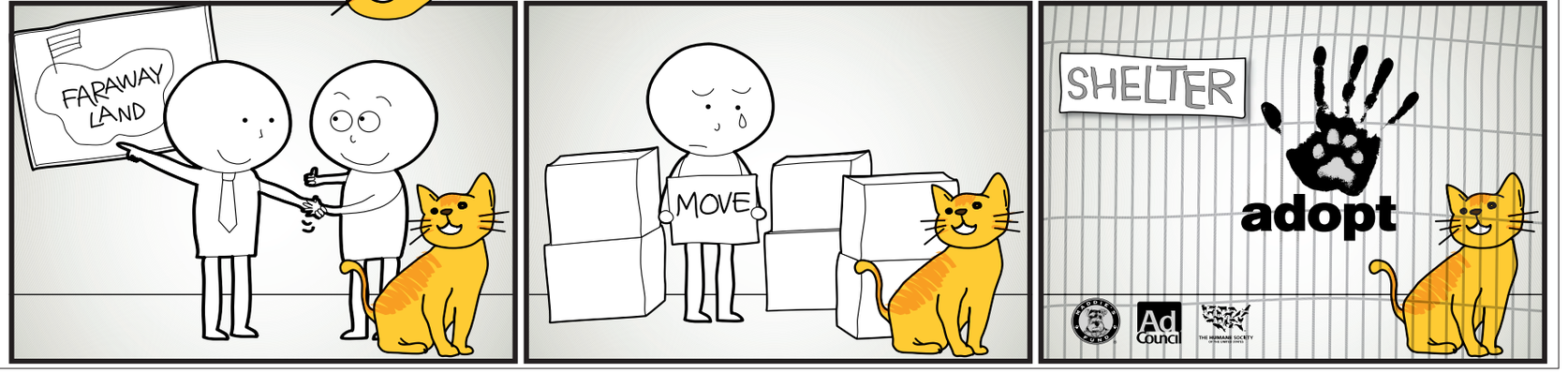

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Market watch

CHEAPEST
$259K
321 E. 89th St.
The cheapest unit listed this week is a one-bedroom co-op at 321 E. 89th St. With hardwood floors and a live-in building super, this Fannie Mae HomePath property is listed by Hot Homes Realty for $259,900.

PRICIEST
$40M
34 E. 62nd St.
The most expensive property to hit the market this week is a brand-new townhouse with four bedrooms at 34 E. 62nd St. This 10,000-square-foot, five-story property with Green/LEED certification is listed by Sotheby's for $40M.

STREETEASY

StreetEasy.com *is a New York-based real estate information portal that aggregates the most comprehensive set of sale and rental listings along with other useful info.*

Introducing 3 luxury condominium communities which have been made affordable through a $75,000 per unit subsidy from the New Jersey Housing & Mortgage Finance Agency. This program is to assist purchasers with an income from $60,000 to $108,000, to purchase their own condominium unit. A builder's closeout has been announced at the College Court Community for the last 2 remaining units. This building offers a deeded parking space and a private gymnasium. The developer has agreed to pay up to $7,500 towards closing costs. All 3 communities are within walking distance to trains, buses and shopping. Prices starting from $210,000.

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College Court House

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2 units remaining.

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- 2 bedroom 2 full bath condominium's
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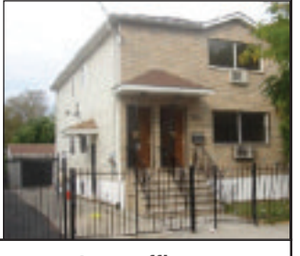

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Real estate

Model Karlie Kloss buys $2 million pad

St. Louis-born supermodel Karlie Kloss, a Victoria's Secret angel and the rumored girlfriend of tech investor Joshua Kushner, is laying down roots in NYC.

The 20-year-old beauty, recently named the face of Juicy Couture's new fragrance, has closed on her $1.98 million purchase of a two-bedroom, two-bathroom apartment at 151 Charles St., according to public records filed today. The deal for the unit was completed Nov. 8, records show.

The apartment seems fit for a supermodel. It has a 20-foot custom closet and a glass-tiled "jewel-like" bathroom, according to the listing. The apartment also features a private balcony.

The model, who has been dubbed "the new body" by the fashion industry (after Elle McPherson, whose body first inspired the term) has been spotted out and about with Kushner, a managing partner at Thrive Capital, in recent months. The pair were spotted together at the Victoria's Secret annual fashion show earlier this month. Kushner is the brother of New York Observer owner and real estate investor Jared Kushner and the brother-in-law of Ivanka Trump.

KATHERINE CLARKE

TheRealDeal.com is a daily blog and monthly magazine covering real estate in the New York metro area.
THE REAL DEAL

Karlie Kloss

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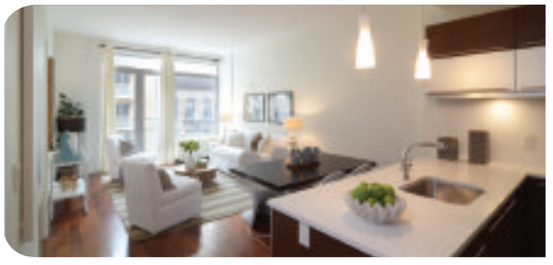

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Buy or sell your home like a pro

Whether you're looking for a new home or saying good-bye to your old one, real estate experts Jonathan and Drew Scott share their guidelines

Brothers Jonathan and Drew Scott see beyond linoleum floors and chipping paint to help couples transform dingy spaces into their dream homes and help buyers and sellers get the most for their money on their HGTV shows "Property Brothers" and "Buying & Selling." The brothers — Jonathan's a contractor and Drew's a real estate agent — give us their tips for smooth real estate transactions.

From left: Jonathan and Drew Scott

Four tips for buying

1 Scope out the scene
Research the neighborhood you're looking in. It's important to know what comparable homes are selling for and the cost of any special features you really want, such as a pool or large backyard.

2 Balance your checkbook
Before even scanning home listings or talking to a broker, get your finances in order. Figure out your income, assets and debt so you know what you can afford.

3 Dream big
Jonathan asks: "This is going to be your dream home, so why not get everything you want?" Make a detailed wish list for your home, including size and features. Then, mark which items you could realistically live without and which are must-haves so you know what's nonnegotiable when you're out with a broker.

4 Don't settle
Don't ignore the fact that your house is next to a train track just because you like a certain feature. Don't ignore anything that could affect resale value.

MARY ANN GEORGANTOPOULOS

Four tips for selling

1 Work with the pros
Don't try to do this alone. Use a realtor who knows the community, market value and how to negotiate. You want the best price, after all.

2 Stage it right
When listing your home, make an effort to make it look its best. Declutter, depersonalize, fix any minor repairs and add some lights. "There are many inexpensive things that can make a world of a difference," says Jonathan.

3 Disclose everything
If you're selling your house and you don't disclose a known issue, you're setting yourself up for a lawsuit.

STOCKBYTE

4 Leave emotions aside
It's your home: Of course you think it's worth top-dollar. But keep emotions out when considering an offer — it's one of the big reasons people lose money in real estate. Remember: Real estate is an investment, and you should make decisions in a business frame of mind.

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